

Egypt calls for EC initiative

LUXEMBOURG (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister of State Boutros Ghali Tuesday called on the European Community (EC) to take the initiative in trying to persuade Israel to recognise Palestinian rights. Diplomats said the Egyptian minister's appeal came at a meeting with 10 foreign ministers in the Egyptian-Community Co-operation Council. They said Mr. Ghali also praised European participation in Middle East peace-keeping efforts in Sinai and Lebanon as a sign of concern for the area. He spoke of the need for pressure on Israel to respect the Palestinians' right to self-determination and its international obligations. He said Egypt had proved its readiness for peace but such proof had still to come from Israel, and said the setting up of settlements in occupied Arab territories was unfavourable to peace.

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Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية عربية مستقلة، المنشورة من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الراي"

Iraqi jets raid Iranian positions

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Iraqi air force and army on Tuesday attacked Iranian positions in the southern sector of the joint border region scoring direct hits and killing 12 Iranian soldiers, a war communique said. The communique, released by the general command of the Iraqi Armed Forces, said the 12 Iranian soldiers were killed during attacks by Iraqi border gunners and combat patrols in the southern sector of the 1,180-kilometre frontline. Iraqi jetfighters and helicopter gunships that took part in the raids "returned safely to base," according to the communique which reports on daily combat action of the 43-month Iran-Iraq war. Iranian gunners, the communique said, shelled the southern Iraqi provincial capital of Basra and the central border town of Mandali "demolishing three houses and inflicting damage to another," the communique added without further elaboration.

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Arab foreign ministers to meet

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab foreign ministers will meet in the Tunisian town of Soussa on May 15, to discuss matters related to the next Arab summit, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, quoted Arab League sources as saying Tuesday. The meeting, which will be held under a decision by the Arab League Council, will discuss aspects pertaining to the convening of the 13th Arab summit conference which is due to be held in Riyadh, Petra quoted the sources as saying.

2 Israeli soldiers escape attack

TEL AVIV (R) — Two Israeli soldiers escaped injury Tuesday when a hand grenade thrown into the cab of their truck in the occupied West Bank failed to explode, an army spokesman said. The soldiers fired at but failed to hit the fleeing attackers. The area around the Arab village of Silwad, northeast of Jerusalem, was sealed off while troops searched for the attackers.

Iraqi leader meets Romanian premier

BAGHDAD (R) — Visiting Romanian Prime Minister, Constantin Dascalu and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Tuesday discussed the progress of the three-and-a-half-year-old Gulf war, the Iraqi News Agency reported. The agency gave no details but said the two leaders also discussed the Lebanese crisis, the Palestinian issue and bilateral relations.

Austrian minister to visit Gulf

VIENNA (AP) — Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lang is to visit five Middle East countries beginning this weekend, the Foreign Ministry announced Tuesday. The April 14-23 tour is to take Mr. Lang to Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait. No other details were disclosed.

Indian, Soviets expected from space

MOSCOW (AP) — A three-man space crew, including India's first man in space, was preparing Tuesday to return to Earth after more than a week in space, the official news agency TASS reported. The three — Soviets Yuri Malyshev and Gennady Strekalov and Indian Rakesh Sharma — were scheduled to return from space Wednesday. Soviet officials said Tuesday that the spacecraft would land at 2:51 p.m. Moscow time (10:51 GMT) at a site near the town of Arkalyk in the Central Asia Republic of Kazakhstan.

Indian strikers reach settlement

NEW DELHI (R) — India's 300,000 striking workers have reached a new wage agreement with the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said. A spokesman for the Transport and Shipping Ministry told Reuters the union leaders were meeting the ministry's senior civil servant to hammer out the finishing touches to a possible agreement.

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Intensified shellings follow Beirut disengagement plan

BEIRUT (R) — Fires raged in west Beirut Tuesday as predominantly Christian rightist militiamen poured shells into the mainly Muslim western sector after daylong battles along the city's front lines.

Three fires blazed along one street close to the prime minister's office after 15 shells slammed into the area in 10 minutes. State-run Beirut Radio said other districts of the western sector had also been hit. The radio reported a large number of casualties but gave no figures.

The shelling caused panic in west Beirut. Families rushed to shelter and the sirens of ambulances and fire trucks wailed through streets thick with black smoke from blazing cars and buildings.

The rightist "Lebanese Forces" militia warned Monday night that it would retaliate swiftly for any shelling of areas in east Beirut by rival militiamen.

The radio said eight shells hit Hamra street, once Beirut's most fashionable thoroughfare, during

the late afternoon rightist bombardment. Earlier, shoppers fled Hamra and nearby streets in panic as heavy 50-mm bullets from anti-aircraft guns — fired machine-gun style from east Beirut — smashed into buildings, causing big sparks as they struck.

A bombardment followed a sharp intensification of fighting at midday between militiamen along the 15-kilometre confrontation lines from Beirut port in the north to the mountain town of Souq Al-Gharb above the city.

An army soldier was killed and two were wounded in the earlier fighting, radio and television reports said. Six ceasefires called in the afternoon by a security committee grouping the army and the rival militias were ignored.

The bombardments erupted

despite a plan to disengage rival forces along the front lines in and around the capital. President Amin Gemayel and senior representatives of the three main militias endorsed the plan Monday night.

Under the disengagement plan, the forces will withdraw by between 10 and 700 metres right along the line, letting in a force of about 2,000 Internal Security Forces (ISF) men.

ISF sources said they had about 900 men on standby and would borrow another 1,100 or so from among army conscripts.

Reserve army officers have been asked to report to their posts to join a 110-strong observer corps to monitor a truce which should come into effect alongside the disengagement.

No date has been set for the operation, though the Beirut daily As-Safir predicted it would not begin for another week. Official sources said a military sub-committee would remain in permanent session to make detailed arrangements.

At the presidential palace above Beirut, President Gemayel Tuesday had talks with senior

opposition politicians in advance of a Syrian-Lebanese summit now expected to take place on either Thursday or Friday.

Presidential sources said it was an encouraging sign that Marwan Hamade, a former minister and one of the closest advisers to opposition Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) Walid Junblatt, had gone to the palace for the first time in over a year.

Mr. Junblatt, leader of the mainly Druze PSP, has been one of the Mr. Gemayel's bitterest critics. Until the Lebanese reconciliation conference in Switzerland last month, he was demanding the president resign and stand trial.

Syria has been instrumental in bringing Mr. Gemayel and the opposition together and Lebanese politicians have high hopes for Mr. Gemayel's summit in Damascus with President Hafez Al-Assad.

In an interview published Monday, Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam said Mr. Assad would do his best to reconcile the warring Lebanese factions and bring an end to nine years of intermittent civil war.

Four-faction alliance has no pre-conditions for dialogue with Fateh, Abd Rabbo says

By Lamin K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A "four-party Palestinian alliance" which includes four Palestinian left-wing organisations, has no pre-conditions for reconciliation talks with Fateh, the mainstream command group in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and is still committed to a reconciliation meeting which is supposed to take place in Algiers on April 20, a senior PLO official said Tuesday.

Yasser Abd Rabbo, a member of the Central Committee of the Syrian-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) led by Nayef Hawatmeh, told the Jordan Times in a phone interview Tuesday: "The four-party alliance has no pre-conditions for reconciliation talks with Fateh and is committed to the meeting on April 20 in Algiers." The alliance includes the DFLP, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and the Palestinian Communist Party.

Differences between the four organisations and Fateh, surfaced after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's visit to Cairo last December. Reports last week, however, indicated that South Yemen is arranging for a reconciliation meeting to take place in Algiers on April 20.

Mr. Abd Rabbo, who is also a PLO Executive Committee member, said a South Yemeni envoy who is currently visiting Damascus has informed the four-party alliance of a Fateh proposal to advance the date of the meeting, "but we could not accept the Fateh proposal solely because we had prior engagements." He added that the four organisations are committed to hold the meeting on April 20.

Earlier this week Deputy Commander of PLO Forces Khalil Al-Wazir, who is also a Central Committee member, told the Jordan Times that Fateh has sent a message in early April to the other organisations that if a meeting to reach an agreement to hold the Palestine National Council (PNC) does not take place in

two-weeks it will call on a popular Palestinian conference to elect substitute PNC members to replace those who do not attend.

Mr. Abd Rabbo, however, expressed the view that "such a conference will not take place."

Meanwhile, PLO officials in Amman told the Jordan Times that Fateh has already prepared lists of Palestinian personalities who will be invited to the popular conference, which, if held, would convene in Algeria.

The DFLP official dismissed the information as "provocative statements aimed at pressuring the four organisations."

The DFLP official also said that the Yemeni envoy, Abdul Al-Ghani Abdul Kader, is in Damascus "to hold talks with Syrian officials and not to mediate among Palestinian factions."

"The only message we have received was the Fateh proposal to advance the date of the meeting," Mr. Abd Rabbo said. "We have not been informed of any Fateh decision to call on a popular conference except for Mr. Wazir's statement, to the Jordan Times," he said.

The Palestinian official said the four organisations were "surprised" and "dismayed" by Mr. Wazir's statements.

"We are sorry to hear statements that imply a possible exclusion of the four Palestinian organisations from the PNC," he said.

Mr. Wazir had explained to the Jordan Times that the Fateh decision to call on a popular conference emanated from its belief that delaying the PNC meeting "is against interests of the Palestinian revolution."

Mr. Abd Rabbo, however, said that "one week will not make any difference."

The last two weeks have witnessed intensive Palestinian meetings in Aden, South Yemen, during which the four organisations studied and were reported to have rejected a 22-point memorandum submitted by the Fateh Central Committee.

But Mr. Abd Rabbo said Tuesday that the four organisations



SHEIKH ISSA IN BRITAIN: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and the Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, chat with each other at Windsor Castle Tuesday, the first day of the Arab leader's three-day visit to Britain (AP wirephoto)

Masri calls on U.S. to adopt 'even-handed' policy in Mideast

By Chris Bustani
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Taher Al-Masri on Tuesday called on the United States to take an "even-handed" position on the Middle East conflict, saying that Israel, not the Soviet Union or communism, was the biggest threat to the Arab World.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Mr. Masri said: "The United States has to act even-handedly vis-a-vis Israel and the Arabs. We ask the United States to apply the principles of U.N. Resolution 242 based on international principles they recognize."

The foreign minister's statement came against a background of increasing criticism of the U.S. policy in the Middle East by His Majesty King Hussein, who in recent statements to the media said that the U.S. has lost its credibility as a honest mediator in the Arab-Israeli conflict because of

Washington's unrestrained and unconditional support for the Jewish state.

Mr. Masri Tuesday referred to the 1967 U.N. Resolution that calls for Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories occupied in the 1967 Middle East war in exchange for Arab recognition of Israel, and said: "We have lately noticed a move away from the original U.S. position in the Middle East conflict. This is why King Hussein made his statements criticising U.S. policy in the area."

During a meeting Sunday with a visiting delegation from the U.S. National Defence University, the King also called for Soviet participation in Middle East peace efforts.

Mr. Masri said Tuesday that if Washington could not achieve peace between Israel and the Arabs "they should not block efforts by others." "I am not only talking about the Soviet Union participating in a peace settlement proposal, but also European countries."

He said the United States should not fear a "communist upsurge" in the area if the Soviets participate in the peace process. "It is unrealistic to talk to us about a communist threat or upsurge that is our first concern," he said. "We have proved in this region that we are pro-West, even if we criticise some of the West's policies."

He called on European nations to use their influence on the United States in a "more consistent manner."

Referring to moves in the U.S. Congress to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Mr. Masri said Arab and Islamic countries would consider this a very serious matter.

He said it would further damage U.S. credibility in the area and would be seen as "a kind of certificate of good conduct for Israel, a green light for further expansionist policies of the West and for the abandonment of

Delegation back from IPU talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — An official Jordanian parliamentary delegation which attended the meetings of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva from April 1 to 7 returned Tuesday.

Bahjat Al-Talhouni, member of the Upper House of Parliament who headed the delegation, told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the IPU conference discussed various global issues with special emphasis on the Middle East, the Palestinian question and the Gulf war. Other issues discussed were an Italian-sponsored discussion on human rights in Chile and a Somali-proposed review of the situation in the Horn of Africa in light of Somalia's allegations of Ethiopian attacks, he said.

World population problems and ways to divert finances spent on armaments to development projects were among other issues discussed at the Geneva meeting, Mr. Talhouni said.

Ministerial team, officials review cement production

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat Tuesday

presided over a meeting of the ministerial development committee of the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) in Fuhes. During the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al-Anani and Finance Minister Hanna Odeh, and Central Bank Governor Mohammad Said Al-Nahuli, in addition to the chairman of the boards of directors of the JCFC and the South Cement Factories Company, progress of work at the South Cement Com-

pany in Al-Rashadiyeh, was reviewed.

The chairman of the board of directors of the South Cement Company said the first production unit at the factory has started actual production at a capacity of one million tonnes a year.

The chairman added that a three-year agreement to sell half-a-million tonnes of cement annually has been concluded and that the second unit will start its production during September, thus raising the factory's production capacity to two million tonnes a year.

M'bow: UNESCO pullout will harm U.S. interests

WASHINGTON (AP) — United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Director-General Amadou Mahtar M'bow said Monday an American withdrawal from the organisation would be costly for the United States because of the heavy U.S. participation in many scientific programmes of the United Nations agency.

Mr. M'bow said the United States takes part in the design, implementation and evaluation of UNESCO programmes more than any other nation. As an example, he said more than half of the 400 UNESCO-sponsored "man and the biosphere" programmes are implemented in this country.

Mr. M'bow, a Senegalese educator who has headed UNESCO for 10 years, spoke at a news conference sponsored by Foreign Policy magazine. Most of the questioning centred on the Reagan administration's decision to withdraw from UNESCO at the end of the year unless major reforms are undertaken.

He expressed confidence he will be able to ride out the turmoil resulting from the U.S. withdrawal, threat and complaints about UNESCO performance from

Great Britain and other West European countries.

"I do not need a vote of confidence," he said. "I believe I have the trust and confidence of the entire organisation."

The administration has charged that UNESCO has become politicised and anti-Western. "My deepest wish is that the United States remain a member," said Mr. M'bow through a translator. "It is important indeed to preserve universality."

Among the programmes the administration has criticised is a \$750,000 UNESCO disarmament and peace initiative it contends was "Soviet-inspired." Mr. M'bow said the initiative was approved by a consensus "including the United States."

He said that if the United States wants to withdraw from the consensus, it should come up with a new initiative.

Mr. M'bow, who is here to attend a symposium, suggested that part of UNESCO's problems with the United States results from a lack of U.S. understanding of how the agency operates because the average American member of the executive board member remains on the job for less than two years.

Brother of Chad victim attempts to attack Hernu

TOULOUSE, France (Agencies) — The grieving brother of one of nine French soldiers killed during a weekend explosion in Chad was shot and wounded Tuesday when he drove his car toward Defence Minister Charles Hernu during an outdoor funeral service for the soldiers.

Mr. Hernu, high-ranking officers including French Army Chief of Staff Jannou Lacaze, and family members escaped injury. The car drove half way around the open square before rolling to a halt after guards opened fire and wounded

the man.

Members of the grieving families wept and screamed as the drama took place before them.

Witnesses at the scene said Lionel Rehal, around 25, had verbally abused Mr. Hernu before jumping into his yellow car. He was stopped by a bullet in the thigh, officials said.

In Paris, the Defence Ministry later confirmed that Mr. Hernu had been the target of Mr. Rehal's drive, during which his car struck and overturned one of the flag-draped coffins.

Sri Lankan army battles Tamil rebels

COLOMBO (AP) — Army troops shot two people to death in the northern town of Jaffna Tuesday after separatist Tamil extremists attacked a Buddhist temple and a Sinhalese school, officials said.

An 18-hour curfew was imposed in Jaffna amid reports that troops were burning Tamil-owned shops and homes.

The nation's new national security minister went on national radio to appeal for calm, and the president said the Tamil separatists were trying to incite a "communist revolution."

The developments came one day after three people were killed and 15 injured in Jaffna when army troops opened fire following a bomb attack on their convoy. Nine soldiers were injured in the blast.

The Jaffna municipal area, about 400 kilometres northeast of here, was put under curfew from noon Tuesday to 6 a.m. Wednesday (0630 to 0030 GMT).

The trouble began Tuesday when Tamil militants seeking a separate state on the Sinhalese-dominated island nation attacked a Buddhist temple and a Sinhalese school in the centre of town.

Tamils, who form 18 per cent of the nation's population, are mostly Hindus of South Indian origin. The majority Sinhalese are mostly Buddhists. The army is made up nearly entirely of Sinhalese.

Douglas Liyanage, secretary to the information ministry, told reporters in the capital here that the school was gutted by fire. The school had been closed for a holiday.

In Chunnakam, a market town

about 10 kilometres outside Jaffna, three Sinhalese-owned bakeries were burned, people said.

Police said an armed gang robbed the Bank of Ceylon branch in Jaffna of an undetermined amount of cash, though possibly as much as 1.2 million rupees (about \$48,000).

Mr. Liyanage said two people were killed in army firing but did not know whether the victims were bystanders or extremists.

"The army said they fired at people who attacked them," he said.

Residents fled into their homes and closed their shops as the troops opened fire, police said. As many as 30 Tamil-owned shops and houses were burned by the troops, residents said.

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Egypt proposes peace force between Iraq, Iran

CAIRO (Agencies) — A proposed Egyptian peace plan to end the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq will include the presence of a peace keeping force to man the two countries border, President Hosni Mubarak said Tuesday.

He declined any further details, but told reporters the Egyptian proposals differed from other peace initiatives to end the 43-month old war.

"There are differences between our plan and other plans, but I cannot say it until the plan is completed and concerned parties approached," he said.

Asked whether he thought his plan would be accepted despite the failure of all previous international efforts, Mr. Mubarak said: "As long as there is life there is hope... We hope that the initiative will find its way, at least to stop the deteriorating situation between the two countries."

He said the plan, now under study, would be sent to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi as the current head of the Non-Aligned Movement. Last Sunday he said it would also be submitted later to the United Nations Security Council.

Efforts by the United Nations, the Non-Aligned group and the Organisation of Islamic Conference have failed so far to put an end to the Gulf war, now in its fourth year.

This was due to Iranian preconditions including the overthrow of the Iraqi government and payment by Iraq of \$150 billion in war damages to Iran.

Asked whether his plan included peacekeeping forces, Mr. Mubarak replied: "Why not?" Diplomatic sources said an Egyptian peace plan stood little or no chance of success because of the deep hostility shown towards Cairo by the regime of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini since it came to power in February 1979.

The Khomeini regime strongly resented Egypt's hospitality to the overthrown Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi who was given asylum in his country. The Shah died in Cairo in July 1980.

Khomeini also broke off diplomatic relations with Egypt shortly after it signed a peace treaty with Israel in March 1979.

Palestinian state

Earlier Egypt and the Central African Republic called Tuesday for an independent Palestinian state in Israeli-occupied ter-

ritories under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The demand came in a joint communique issued at the end of talks between President Mubarak and Andre Kolingba, president of the Central African Republic, who concluded a four-day official visit and flew home Tuesday.

The communique urged Iran to "heed the calls of the international community" and agree to a cease-fire in its war with Iraq to be followed by negotiations on a settlement.

"The two presidents expressed their conviction that a just and permanent peace in the Middle East must be based on full implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity," the communique said.

"These resolutions call for Israel's complete withdrawal from all Arab lands occupied after the June 1967 aggression and for recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to self-determination, including the right to establish a state on their land under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," it said.

This was a reference to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip which Israel conquered along with

Hosni Mubarak

Syria's Golan Heights and Egypt's Sinai peninsula in the 1967 war. The Sinai was returned to Egypt under a 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

The demand for a Palestinian state came close to one made in a peace plan adopted at a 1982 Arab Summit in the Moroccan city of Fez.

The Fez plan implicitly recognised Israel's right to exist in peace within secure borders, while calling for an independent Palestinian state.

The communique also condemned the construction of Israeli settlements in occupied Arab lands as "an obstacle" to peace efforts and a "flagrant violation" of U.N. resolutions and International Law.

The communique proposed a round-table conference to settle the conflict in Chad, where Libyan-backed rebel forces led by former President Goukouni Oueddei are occupying the northern third of the country.

Iraq expects another Israeli attack

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Tuesday that Israel plans to attack its vital economic and military targets and vowed to repel strongly any such action.

The ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said in an editorial: "Israel is preparing to mount a new crazy adventure against vital economic and military targets in Iraq."

It said the expected attack would be similar to the Israeli air raid against an Iraqi nuclear reactor in June, 1981.

But present-day Iraq was not the Iraq of 1981, Al Thawra said. "The Zionist enemy must understand that we are carefully watching its movement and preparation to implement its aggressive adventure."

"We will repel strongly and hardly any crazy action that the enemy may try to commit," the editorial said.

The government newspaper Al Jumhuriya carried a similar editorial and said Arab and international public opinion should be alerted to Israel's "evil intentions."

The experimental reactor under construction near Baghdad was destroyed in the Israeli air attack of 1981. The Israelis said at the time that the plant could have been used to help Iraq to develop nuclear weapons.

Al Thawra said the new Israeli "adventure" was part of what it termed "the co-ordination be-

ween Israel and Iran to encourage the latter to continue its war with Iraq."

The continuing Gulf war between Iran and Iraq started in September 1980.

Iraq's industry and minerals minister, Subhy Yassin Khadeir, was quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency INA last month as saying Iran and Israel were planning to attack a phosphate and fertiliser complex near Akashat in west Iraq.

The \$3.2 billion complex is being built by a Belgian company, Syberta, in co-operation with sub-contractors from Britain, West Germany, Poland, Pakistan, China and Bangladesh.

Gandhi: Gulf war, Lebanon seem insoluble

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi returned from visits to Libya and Tunisia Tuesday and declared the Iran-Iraq war and the Lebanon crisis seemed almost insoluble.

Mrs. Gandhi, head of the 101-nation Non-Aligned Movement, told reporters at New Delhi Airport her talks with Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi and Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba came up with no ways of solving the two problems.

"Even though the problems seem almost insoluble one has to find a way out," Mrs. Gandhi said.

Mrs. Gandhi also planned to visit Algeria and Egypt during the tour but dropped the two nations from her itinerary because of violence between Sikhs and Hindus in India's Punjab state.

Asked if Col. Qadhafi favoured Iran in the war with Iraq, Mrs. Gandhi replied: "Everybody has a position. I don't know what are his plans."

A Press Trust of India news agency reporter who covered Mrs.

Gandhi's tour said Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat told her in Tunis there was no longer any dissent within the PLO.

"We have overcome that stage. The movement is now fully united," PLO said Mr. Arafat told Mrs. Gandhi.

PTI said Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi told Mrs. Gandhi reports that Iraq used chemical weapons against Iran were incorrect.

Chinese foreign minister leaves Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian left Tunis Tuesday for Kuwait after three days of talks on joint projects and international issues.

In a departure statement, Mr. Wu reiterated earlier denials of U.S. charges that China was delivering arms to Iran and said his country has observing strict neutrality in the 42-month-old Gulf war.

"Like our Tunisian friends, we hope that there will be an end to

this war and we are ready to add our efforts to those of other peace-loving countries to bring the two countries to the negotiating table," he said.

During his visit Mr. Wu had talks with a wide range of Tunisian officials, as well as Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi and Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat, who is expected to visit Peking later this year.

Officials here say that in Kuwait, his next stop in a six-nation

tour of European and Arab countries, Mr. Wu is likely to discuss a project to build a Kuwaiti-financed fertiliser plant in China using Tunisian phosphates and expertise.

Tunisian Supply Minister Sadok Ben Jomaa is due to travel to China later this month for more talks on economic co-operation under Peking's plan to open up its coastal regions to foreign development.

Iran's foreign minister arrives in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP) — Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here Tuesday for talks Japan hopes will "help create an environment" for peace between warring Iran and Iraq.

Shortly after his arrival Mr. Velayati paid a courtesy call on his counterpart Mr. Shintaro Abe. He will have two more meetings with Mr. Abe and confer with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and other top officials before leaving for Malaysia Thursday.

Mr. Abe, in a news conference last week, said the main purpose of Mr. Velayati's visit is to im-

prove bilateral ties and that "Japan is not in a position to intervene or mediate" in the 3-year-old war between Iran and Iraq.

He added however, that Japan, which has strong trade relations with both countries and is highly dependent on oil shipped through the Strait of Hormuz south of Iran, "hopes to help create an environment to resolve the conflict and discuss ways to keep the war from expanding."

The Iran-Iraq conflict did not come up in the courtesy call Tuesday, Foreign Ministry officials said. Mr. Abe noted it was the

third meeting between the two and hoped their friendship would be the basis for greater political, economic and cultural ties between the two countries.

Mr. Velayati said he was favourably impressed by Japan's diplomatic policies and hoped Japan, as an Asian nation, would give weight to Asian concerns, the ministry officials said.

Mr. Velayati, who took office in December 1981, visited West Germany in February 1982 and has attended a United Nations session in New York, but has made few trips to Western nations.

Committee on Jerusalem postpones meeting

JEDDAH (R) — Committee on Jerusalem has postponed a scheduled meeting in the Moroccan city of Fez from April 16 to April 19. OIC officials said here Tuesday. The postponement was at Morocco's request, they added.

The committee, formed in 1975, partly with the aim of advancing Jerusalem's international status, includes the foreign min-

isters or representatives of Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Senegal, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The officials Monday quoted OIC Secretary-General Habib Chatti, who is also a member of the committee, as saying the mee-

ting would approve steps to be taken in the face of the "critical and dangerous circumstances through which Jerusalem is passing."

But the meeting follows statements from U.S. Democratic presidential candidates that they would transfer the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem on taking office.

Mr. Bush warned against congressional efforts to have the U.S. embassy in Israel moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

He said few actions could undermine more the U.S. role as honest broker in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Jerusalem is just too emotionally charged a symbol for Muslims, as well as Christians and Jews," he said.

Israeli Army holds call-up exercise

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli Army held a military call-up exercise for reserve soldiers Tuesday.

Using call-up codes like "sundial" and "colours of the rainbow", state and army radio stations instructed reservists to report to pre-arranged meeting points. Some reserve soldiers were to turn their vehicles over to the army before reporting.

According to London's Ins-

titute of Strategic Studies, Israel's standing army of 172,000 can be expanded to 500,000 with all reservists mobilised.

Israel's last public call-up exercise was in February.

The radio called four unit code-names. The list was shorter than the one broadcast for the last drill on Feb. 6, but there was no indication how many soldiers were being called up.

The Israeli government sought to play down the reports of a Syrian buildup, describing them as exaggerated and saying they reflected political tensions in Damascus rather than planned moves against Israel.

An Israeli call-up exercise last November led to a general Syrian mobilisation, despite repeated Israeli assurances that its troops were not preparing for war.

Israeli student elections favour Labour Party

TEL AVIV (AP) — A straw poll of students at one of Israel's two largest universities has given a party affiliated with the opposition Labour alignment a convincing victory over a rightist party tied to the ruling Likud.

The poll held Monday at Tel Aviv University came 104 days before national elections scheduled for July 23, and analysts and pollsters warned politicians not to read too much significance into the results.

The results gave the "alternative" party, affiliated with the opposition Labour Party and several small left-wing parties 60 per cent of the vote — increase of almost 10 per cent from last year.

Israel Radio said 5,800 students, who represent 33 per cent of the university's student body, participated in the annual balloting and noted that it was the highest voter turnout the university had known.

Shaul Rahabi, grandson of former Labour Prime Minister Golda Meir and head of "alternative," told the Associated Press in a telephone interview that, because of the system of representation in the student council, his left-wing coalition would have 49 of the 67 council seats. This is an increase of four seats over last year.

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Sharon seems set to challenge Shamir

TEL AVIV (AP) — Former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon's decision to challenge Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Thursday for the leadership of the Herut Party in the coming general election appeared to be final at the beginning of the week.

Israel Radio and the daily Jerusalem Post said on Monday that Sharon is insisting on running against Shamir despite appeals by top Herut members to avoid splitting the party.

But Israeli political commentators saw Mr. Sharon's power bid as a tactic to return to the active role in government, from which he was banished last year more than a genuine challenge, since his support in the party is too weak to carry the leadership election.

And whatever Mr. Sharon's real ambitions at this stage, the very fact of his challenge is expected to damage the government's chances

of being re-elected on July 23.

Mr. Sharon was forced out of the Defence Ministry in February 1983 following the report of a judicial commission of inquiry into the massacre of hundreds of Palestinians by Falangist militiamen in two Beirut refugee camps in September 1982. But he remained in the government as a minister without portfolio, and has been trying since then to regain a position of real power.

But the daily Hadashot said Tuesday that Mr. Sharon's associates in Herut had urged him not to make any deal with Mr. Sharon and to "finish him off" in a party challenge.

Israel Radio reported that Deputy Prime Minister David Levy, who gave up his bid to challenge Mr. Shamir for the sake of party unity, said he had ensured that all his supporters would vote for Mr. Shamir. Mr. Levy spoke to reporters after meeting with Mr.

Shamir to sew up the Levy camp's support for the prime minister in Thursday's party voting.

Mr. Sharon has a hard core of supporters in the Herut Party and the country as a whole, who believe he is the man most suitable to provide the strong leadership the country needs in the fight against the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

His electoral appeal is small: A popularity poll last week gave him only 3.5 per cent of public support for the premiership, while Mr. Shamir won 10.9 per cent, and former President Yitzhak Navon had 27.5 per cent.

Despite this, columnist Yossi Melman wrote in the left-wing daily Davar on Monday that Mr. Sharon has nothing to lose and everything to gain from competing against Mr. Shamir, rather than giving in at the last minute like Deputy Premier David Levy.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
16:00... Koran
16:10... Cartoons
16:40... Football match: Windsor vs. Sakandari (Italy)
18:30... Programme on Film-making
19:20... Programme Review
19:30... Programme on Agriculture
20:00... News in Arabic
20:20... Arabic Series
21:30... Tourism Programme
22:20... Local Programme
23:00... News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00... L'Art Au Monde Des Telemodes
19:00... News in French (Journal)
19:15... La Die Des Antres
19:30... News in Hebrew
20:00... News in Arabic
20:30... Buffalo Bill: Ep. 11
21:10... Documentary: NASA
22:00... News in English
22:15... Horst: Black Out

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
partly on 95.60 KHz. SW

07:00... Light Music
07:30... Newsday
08:00... Morning Show
08:30... News Summary
09:00... Morning Show
09:30... News Summary
10:00... Pop Session
10:30... News Summary
11:00... News Summary
11:30... Pop Session
12:00... News Summary
12:30... News Summary
13:00... Pop Session
13:30... News Bulletin
14:00... Instrumental
14:30... Oni Mother
15:00... Concert Hour
16:00... News Summary
16:30... Old Favourites
17:00... Jordan Weekly
17:30... Pop Session
18:00... Over a Cup of Tea
18:30... News Day
19:00... Date with a Star
20:00... Evening Show
21:00... News Summary
21:30... Evening Show
22:00... News Summary
23:00... News Summary
24:00... News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz
06:00... Newsday 06:30... Waveguide 06:40... Book Choice 06:45... Financial News 06:55... Reflections 07:00... World News 07:05... 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30... What's New 07:45... The World Today 08:00... Newsday 08:30... Omnibus 09:00... World News 09:30... 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30... The World Today 10:00... News Summary 10:00... World News 10:05... Newsday 10:15... Book Choice 10:20... The World Today 11:00... British Press Review 11:15... The World Today 11:30... Financial News 11:40... Look Ahead 11:45... These Musical Islands 12:15... Patrick Marryat's Music Box 12:30... The Mystery and Physical Science of 12:45... Newsday 12:50... Recording of the Week 13:00... World News 13:05... Newsday 13:15... British Press Review 13:30... Short Story 13:30... Meridian 14:00... Radio Newsday 14:15... Nature Notebook 14:25... The Farming World 14:45... Sports Round-up 15:00... World News 15:05... 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30... A Story of Music 15:45... Holst and his Circle 16:15... Report on Religion 16:30... The Marvellous Play 17:00... Radio Newsday 17:15... Outlook 18:00... World News 18:05... Commentary 18:15... Counterpoint 18:45... The World Today 19:00... World News 19:05... Monitor 19:25... New Ideas 19:35... Waveguide 19:45... Sports Round-up 20:00... Newsday 20:30... Top Twenty 21:00... Outlook 21:30... Stock Market Report 21:45... Look Ahead 21:45... A Treasury of Music 22:00... World News 22:05... 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30... Assignment 23:00... Network U.K. 23:15... World Service 23:30... Jazz for the Asking 24:00... World News 00:05... The World Today 00:25... Book Choice 00:30... Financial News 00:45... Newsday 00:55... Sports Round-up 01:00... World News 01:05... Commentary 01:15... The Future of Work 01:30... Top Twenty

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260, SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 & 15210 KHz
06:00... VOA Morning: News on the hour; news summaries; daily business report; science and medicine; sports reports; VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; analysis, viewpoints, features 17:00... News

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

* Paintings exhibition by Dutch artist Janine Seif at the All Art Gallery from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
* Paintings exhibition by Hind Sharif Nasser at the Royal Cultural Centre.
* Paintings exhibition by Jordanian Artist Olama Hajjar Shamouni at the Goe-Institute.

"A Case Exposition of Arts Plastique", starts at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

VIDEO

"Paris-Paris" starts at the French Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre... Tel. 6610267
American Centre... 43771
British Council... 41520
American Council... 36147-8
French Cultural Centre... 37009
Gosha Institute... 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre... 42023
Spanish Cultural Centre... 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre... 39777
Haya Arts Centre... 665195
Hussein Youth City... 667181
Y.W.C.A... 41793
American Municipal Library... 36111
University of Jordan Library... 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qaf (Cinical Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim world. "Israd" a collection of paintings by 19th Century orient's art. Mustazah, Jabal Luveldah. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m.

SERVICE CLUBS

Least Amman Club. Meetings every Monday and Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphie Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel. 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphie Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m.
Babylon Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel. 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic). Jabal Amman, Tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic). Jabal Luveldah, 37440.
De la Sante Church (Roman Catholic). Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox). Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer). Jabal Amman, 41559.
Armenian Catholic Church. Ashrafiah, 71251.
St. Ephrem Church (Syrian Orthodox). Ashrafiah, 71751.
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational). meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisan, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

06:46... Fajr
07:10... (Sunrise) Shuruq
11:37... Dhuh
15:13... 'Asr
18:03... Maghreb
19:27... Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Air Int. operation department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 33250, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:00... Cairo (MS)
08:40... Karachi (KU)
09:05... Agaba (RU)
09:15... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RU)
09:25... Dhahran, Kuwait (RU)
09:45... Cairo (RU)
11:05... Muscat, Bahrain (KLM)
12:15... Laraca (CY)
14:05... Cairo (MS)
14:40... Kuwait (KU)
14:50... Bucharest, Laraca (RO)
15:00... Jeddah (SV)
15:30... Rio de Janeiro, Laraca (TU)
17:10... Paris, Damascus (AF)
17:15... New York, Amsterdam (RU)
17:35... Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RU)
17:50... Copenhagen, Athens (RU)
18:00... Madrid, Rome (TU)
18:30... Cairo (RU)
18:35... Bangkok (RU)
19:30... Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
20:05... Cairo (MS)
06:30... Cairo (RU)
06:45... Baghdad (RU)

DEPARTURES

06:10... Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
06:45... Laraca, Athens, Amsterdam (KLM)
07:00... Agaba (RU)
08:00... Athens (MS)
08:30... Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
10:05... Damascus, Rome (Alitalia)
11:00... Vienna, New York (RU)
11:30... Cairo (RU)
12:00... London (RU)
12:30... Laraca, Zurich (SR)
13:25... Laraca (TU)
14:30... Cairo (RU)
14:40... Cairo (MS)
15:00... Kuwait (KU)
15:40... Laraca, Bucharest (Taron)
16:40... Jeddah (SV)
18:00... Baghdad (UA)
19:30... Kuwait, Dhahran (RU)
19:40... Bahrain, Doha (RU)
19:40... Jeddah (RU)
20:05... Cairo (MS)
20:15... Baghdad (RU)
20:30... Cairo (RU)
20:30... Abu Dhabi, Doha (RU)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Agaba port:

- Gortu
- Phares
- Fides
- Arabella
- Farouq
- Saudi Al Qasem
- Haida
- Sea Star
- Kora Kantik

Amin Kassar and Sons Company, Tel. 22324 (ext. lines) at your service.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local currency rates in Jls
Belgian franc... 69/ 69.4
Dutch guilder... 125/11/ 125.9
Egyptian pound... 315/ 317.3
French franc... 45/9/ 45.9
Iraqi dinar... 358/8/ 362.5
Italian lire (for 100)... 22/8/ 23
Japanese yen (for 100)... 163/9/ 164.9
Kuwaiti dirham... 1250/5/ 1264.5
Lebanese lira... 65/3/ 66.2
Omani rial... 1070/5/ 1072.5
Qatari riyal... 101/8/ 102
Saudi riyal... 105/3/ 105.6
Swedish crown... 47/4/ 47.7

JPA board resignation frozen pending open talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Jaleel Ajlouni Tuesday decided to refuse to accept the resignations of eight members of the Jordanian Pharmacists' Association (JPA) board pending a general discussion of these resignations at a JPA general assembly meeting in Amman Friday.

The minister's decision came at a meeting he held with the JPA president, Gbaleb Sabbarini, and the board members.

The board expressed their readiness to accept a supervisory committee to take over the activities of the association until a final decision on the resignations is taken.

The eight board members tendered their resignations last week following a dispute with the president whom they accused of being too dictatorial.

Anani meets visiting Swiss trade delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani Tuesday conferred in Amman with the visiting Swiss trade and economic delegation.

He explained to the delegation members Jordan's development schemes, major economic projects and programmes for possible joint ventures with Switzerland.

The minister also explained economic

entives provided by the Jordanian law to foreign investors in the country and outlined the free zones from regulations which investors can benefit.

Dr. Anani also conferred with a delegation representing the Arab-Swiss Chamber of Commerce whom he briefed on the country's current five year development plan.

Social security scheme covers 220,000 workers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The total number of people covered by the Social Security Corporation (SSC) plan was about 220,000 at the end of March, according to a report in 'Al Rai' Arabic daily newspaper.

Of this figure, around 152,500 are Jordanians while the rest are non-Jordanians working here, the report added.

The number of injuries sustained at work during the first three months of 1984 totalled 1,500, which included nine deaths, the report further said, adding that pensions were being paid to the families of the deceased.

Those who are suffering from partial disabilities numbered six and they will receive pensions commensurate with the degree of the disability, report said.

The number of people who have been reimbursed for the medical expenses and travel allowances totalled 902, of which the amount of money paid to them was JD 116,600, the report added.

The SSC made payments of JD 69,200 to 624 participants for old age, disability and death benefits in the first three months of the year.

The SSC expenditure over the same period for lump sum payments amounted to JD 680,000, the report concluded.

Minister sees U.N. envoy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud Tuesday met the representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Jordan.

During the meeting, Mr. Mahmoud reviewed the Israeli practices and provocations in the occupied Arab territories especially concerning their usurpation of Arab waters there.

The Jordan Times also learned from informed sources that there will be a mission of 15 journalists of various nationalities visiting Jordan under the auspices of the U.N. Information Department early in May to meet Jordanian and Palestinian personalities in order to gather information on the Palestinian question.

Arab universities registrars conference opens

AMMAN (Petra) — The use of computers in the field of the registration and admission of students in Arab universities and the best methods of drawing up timetables will be discussed at the Yarmouk University, during a meeting of the pan-Arab conference of officers-in-charge of admission and registration in the Arab universities.

The three-day conference, which started meeting Tuesday, is being attended by representatives from 10 Arab universities which are members of the Arab Organisation of Admissions and Registration officers.

The organisation was established in 1976.

Opening the conference mee-



Her Majesty Queen Noor, aided by university students and schoolchildren, helps clear the litter at a picnic site near Na'ur (Petra photo)

Queen helps launch clean-up campaign to preserve nature

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday launched a clean-up campaign at the site of the Children's Forest near Na'ur, some 40 kilometres west of Amman.

Queen Noor led a number of students from the University of Jordan and hundreds of schoolchildren, who incidentally were picnicking in the forest, in a clean-up campaign against litter left in the forest by picnickers who did not tidy up behind them.

The Queen, together with her army of helpers, carried plastic rubbish bags and started collecting all kinds of refuse. In all it filled about 150 bags.

Accompanying Queen Noor were Prince Ali, Prince Hamza, Prince Hashem and Princess Haya

who happily joined the cleaning campaign. The timing of the campaign is important as it comes at the beginning of the summer season and aims persuade people to keep public gardens and parks clean in order to preserve nature from pollution and so that other people can enjoy them.

The Queen's gesture is also aimed at encouraging other such similar activities to preserve the nature and to increase the level of awareness of people everywhere in the Kingdom.

Prior to leaving the forest site, Queen Noor expressed her hope that every citizen would be committed to preserving the nature around him.

The Children's Forest is a large hilly area covered mainly by pine trees and supervised by the forestry department for the last five years.

The Queen's visit gave the chance for schoolchildren at the site to approach her and shake hands with her. One little girl was so delighted, she said to her classmate smiling happily: "I really shook hands with the Queen."

The university students participating in the events are members of a public services society which consists of 80 members. The non-profit making society, which was established nine years ago, carries out similar activities both inside and outside the university premises.

President of the student's society, Mr. Abdullah Saud, told the Jordan Times that they aim to increase the feeling of belonging to their country by volunteering and providing services whenever they are needed.

Tariff changes to encourage local industry

Anani: Higher duty aims to cut luxury consumption

By Majid Asfour
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani said that the government will from now on adopt a rational economic policy which is designed to alleviate Jordan's burdens and reduce consumption of imported commodities.

Commenting on the government's decision to impose additional customs duty on imported luxury goods, the minister said that the aim of modifying the current customs tariff is to curtail the consumption by Jordanians of luxury and unnecessary goods.

However, such a move will no doubt reduce the customs income to the treasury since the high cost of the imported luxury products will deter people from importing them, the minister said.

Dr. Anani said additional customs duty will force the consumer to either give up buying such an expensive commodity or continue buying it and paying exorbitant prices.

A free enterprise economy does not mean that the door is open to all to buy whatever they choose at the expense of the national interest, he added.

Undoubtedly, customs duty represents an important source of income to the treasury but the government must also give attention to encouraging national industrial production rather than consumption, the minister explained.

He said that in 1982 Jordan imported 913 tonnes of luxury goods. These cost the country JD 325,399 which is a huge amount for a developing country like Jordan, he said.

In the same year, he added, Jordan imported 25 tonnes of cigars and increased its imports of electrical fridges, which are considered luxuries and thus not essential for Jordanians.

The government's step to increase customs on certain types of imported goods is also designed to encourage local industry, the minister said.

Over the past 10 years, Jordan has made major and significant strides in the industrial sector, and for this trend to continue the government must find ways to help national industry to grow and prosper, he said.

Imposing additional tax on imported products will no doubt help local products to have a larger share of both markets here and abroad, the minister added.

This step is particularly necessary at present as a number of Jordanian industries have witnessed stagnation recently and need some measures to boost them, he said. Reducing tax on imported primary goods and raw materials, the minister said, will do just this.

For example, he said, Jordan now produces 60 per cent of home needs in lubricating oil but this can be raised to 100 per cent; therefore the government has raised duty on imported lubricants to encourage more national production.

The government, the minister said, has reduced customs duty on imported gold so as to bring it down to the same level as customs rates imposed on gold imported by neighbouring countries.

This he added, is bound to reduce smuggling.

Computer show hopes to aid development

By Affah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An exhibition of computer and electronic equipment will open on April 14, at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Amman.

The three-day exhibition, which is being organised by the Jordan Centre for Trade Exhibitions (JCTE), is licensed by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism to display as well as to sell equipment, according to JCTE Director Ja'far Abdul Hadi.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Abdul Hadi said that the aim of the exhibition is to acquaint private companies, government institutions as well as individuals with the most advanced computers and the latest electronic products to have reached Jordan, particularly now that the country is witnessing enormous developments and interested people will want to follow up all such developments.

Asked what was the purpose behind establishing the JCTE, Mr. Abdul Hadi said that many exhibitions of such a kind are conducted abroad, displaying the most advanced equipment from various countries "attracting all interested people to attend."

Therefore, he added, it was thought that to initiate this idea

locally would be of use to the Jordanian citizen.

"Such a step will save all concerned the trouble and expenses of travel," he explained.

On the participants who will display their equipment, Mr. Abdul Hadi said that until now eight agents for computers and electronics have been accepted.

"The centre received applications from 40 agents but eight were chosen because they will already have received the latest products before the starting date of the exhibition," he said.

He pointed out that registration is still open if the firms receive their products before the starting date of the exhibition.

On the kind of equipment to be displayed, Mr. Abdul Hadi said it would primarily be computers, calculators and photography machines of the most advanced kind produced.

"The agents participating import their equipment from Japan, Europe, and America," he said.

Nevertheless, Mr. Abdul Hadi pointed out that JCTE plans also to hold exhibitions to display the products of local industry.

Substantiating his statement, Mr. Abdul Hadi said an exhibition for Jordanian advanced industry will be held between April 25-28 and another one for food and light

industry products will be held between April 30-May 2.

Regarding preparations being undertaken by the centre for the first exhibition, Mr. Abdul Hadi said that the JCTE has extended invitations to all ministries, governmental institutions and departments as well as to private companies and firms.

He added that the exhibition is also being thoroughly covered by the press. "At the exhibition two stands will be allocated to the various press representatives in Jordan," he said.

In conclusion, Mr. Abdul Hadi said that JCTE plans to give prizes to the participating agents.

A certificate of distinction will also be given to the best agent.

On the procedures of assessment, Mr. Abdul Hadi said that a questionnaire will be distributed to visitors to the display.

These questions will help pinpoint the best organised display and the general standard of the agent.

These completed questionnaires, he said, will then be deposited in closed boxes. At the end of the exhibition, the forms will be collected under the scrutiny of the press.

"This will help encourage the agents to participate in forthcoming exhibitions as these will be repeated annually."

Imagination runs away from reality in Shamounki's disappointing exhibition

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Although it has been two years since Diana Shamounki last exhibited her work, certain paintings still spring to mind when her name is mentioned. For example, the clustered

domes and minarets from which bands of colour swept like rays of light, the little landscapes and most of all the striking portraits of bedouin women. The present exhibition of her work now on show at the Goethe Institute unfortunately does not fulfil the potential those earlier pieces offered,



Diana Hijjar Shamounki

this being particularly true of the portraits. In the 1981 exhibition it was obvious that Shamounki had really looked into those rich brown faces and, through her work, had managed to capture some of their unique features — the sun worn skin, the plaits of surprising red hair and the warmth of their character. In her more recent portraits however these strongly individual faces have been replaced by a glamorised stereotype, their sharp young features and pale mouths bearing little resemblance to real bedouin beauty.

One or two of the portraits however, like "Waiting" which shows two older women with that calm patient look so often seen on these women's faces and "Al Shieka" who has the bearing and dignity of a princess, manage to escape

from this trap of relying too much on the imagination and not enough on reality without which even the best abstract painting would lose its effect.

Some of the portraits of bedouin men, which tended to be weak in comparison with the female portraits at the last exhibition, are better, mainly because of the way Shamounki has concentrated on just their faces so that, like "The Contemplator" in particular, they have real presence, and they look back at you with ferocity.

ART REVIEW

Shamounki's landscapes, especially ones like "Early Spring", "Sunrise" and "Jerusalem as I see it" which are built upon small ridges of subtle colours which move through blues and deep greens are very attractive, the contours of colour giving an interesting texture and movement to the scene as well as enhancing the often added geometrical shapes of the domes and minarets. Again, however, Shamounki has sometimes relied too much on her imagination and there is a feeling that paintings like "Everlasting Spring" would have been more striking and vital if Shamounki had, like nature herself, clothed the entire scene with wild flowers, while perhaps her "Peach Trees" would have been stronger had they been more like the real thing — bare brown branches dusted with flimsy petals of the richest pink.

All the works are for sure prices ranging from JD 65 for a small still life to JD 500. The exhibition, which opened Tuesday, runs for one week.

Rumaimin: A neglected tourist paradise

By Elia Nasrallah
and Hamdi Asfour

AMMAN — Rumaimin, a small Jordanian town lying some 14 kilometres north of Salt, is neglected by its own people and the authorities. Out of the registered 3,800 inhabitants, only 800 are now believed to be living in the town, the rest having abandoned their homeland to settle in the United States and Latin American countries.

The town is rightly considered a good summer resort with its waterfalls, and cool and inviting climate. The fields around the town and the gardens surrounding the houses are planted with apricots, figs, vines and other fruit trees and, together with the springs and the waterfalls, they attract visitors and vacationers in the summer.

But there are not enough visitors, says the town's mayor, Mr. Michael Sayegh, who has been head of the municipal council since its establishment in 1963.

No tourist facilities

Mr. Sayegh accompanied us on a tour of the town and we passed along a rough road leading to the waterfalls and the springs. Near the springs we found no stalls selling refreshments or food to visitors and the place looked almost deserted. The lack of a good road and good services for holidaymakers also does not encourage visitors to our town, Mr. Sayegh said.

We have been promised by the Ministry of Public Works that a modern road will soon be built, but we have become tired of promises and no action, Mr. Sayegh added. He said that the Arab Cities Organisations has been responsive to the town's request for a loan to build a hotel, a public park and cafeteria to encourage tou-

rists, but our efforts have been hampered by the delays at Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the mayor said.

The municipal council has a budget of nearly JD 120,000 and this is spent on water projects, roads and other essentials so the town still lacks sufficient funds for major projects.

According to the mayor, a number of expatriates have expressed a desire to return home but have been discouraged and they say they cannot invest their money in a neglected town. We do not have a single resident doctor in the town though the Ministry of Health has arranged for a doctor to visit the town's clinic twice a week to offer medical services. For proper medical services one has to travel all the way to Salt or Amman because there is no hospital here either, Mr. Sayegh said.

Local services

As to water and electricity services, they are far from being satisfactory, the mayor said. Many of the town's homes have no electricity or running water and the streets are not lit sufficiently. However, the municipality has been in contact with the con-

cerned authorities to get electric lights installed and to ensure a better supply of water, the mayor said.

As to a telephone service, they are negligible even though ours is supposed to be a tourist town, the mayor said.

Most of the townspeople work in agriculture and all they have is a

total of two kilometres of roads to serve hundreds of dunums of farmland. We still need at least 10-kilometres of roads to be opened in the town to help farmers market their products, and we hope that the Ministries of Agriculture and Public Works will do something to solve these problems, the mayor said.

VACANCIES

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Executive Secretary fluent speaking and writing in English. Typing, filing, telex and office work, with five years experience.

Office Secretary English and Arabic speaking and writing, typing, shorthand, filing, telex and office work, with two years experience.

2. WORD PROCESSING PROGRAMMER

Two years experience in computer programming.

3. ECONOMISTS, ACCOUNTANT

One Economist who has degree in Business Relations.

One Economist who has degree in accounting, experience in similar firms is preferred.

4. كاتب/ توجیهی تجاری خبره بطابعه/ و تعقیب المعاملات

Applicants to send their C.V.'s to P.O. Box 925789 Amman giving their address and phone number, interviews will be conducted for suitable applicants.



Michael Sayegh

former Nicaraguan Deputy Defence Minister Eden Pastora, that all ex-Somoza men must be eliminated from the FDN.

'No violations of Charter', U.S. Olympic officials say

LOS ANGELES (R) — Olympic organising officials in Los Angeles have rejected Soviet charges that the United States violated the Olympic Charter in its preparations for the summer games.

"To our knowledge we can find no violation of the Olympic Charter by the Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee (LAOOC) or by any of the government agencies that we deal with," LAOOC President Peter Ueberroth told a news conference Monday night.

Responding to Moscow's claims of a U.S. campaign against Soviet athletes and hints of a likely Soviet boycott, Ueberroth said he was concerned by the comments.

"I certainly won't dismiss this as merely idle discussion," he said, adding that the situation would be watched.

The Soviet Union has been critical of many aspects of the Los Angeles Summer Games.

Last month, the U.S. State Department refused to issue a visa to Oleg Yermishkin, Moscow's designated Olympic attaché. Officials in Washington alleged that Mr. Yermishkin was connected with the KGB, the Soviet security service.

Ueberroth said that there might have been a "minuscule" violation when the U.S. embassy in Moscow

issued a one-page communique to the Soviet foreign office discussing visas for the Soviet delegation planning to attend the Summer Games.

Under the Olympic Charter, delegations are required to have Olympic identity cards but not visas to enter the host nation.

"That is at best, if you will excuse the term, a nitpick," Ueberroth said.

The Soviet Union has until June 2 to formally announce its participation in the Summer Games, which begin on July 28.

Ueberroth said there have been no other indications that the Russians might plan to withdraw.

"They continue to make all their payments for the television rights. They are even making them in advance," he said.

In a statement from Moscow Monday, the Soviet National Olympic Committee charged that a campaign was under way in the United States against Soviet competitors and hinted that it might consider boycotting the event.

It called on the International

Olympic Committee (IOC) to convene an emergency meeting to compel the U.S. to guarantee security for its participants.

IOC chairman Juan Antonio Samaranch said in Lausanne, Switzerland, that he had not so far received any Soviet request and that all problems could be discussed at an IOC meeting in May.

In Washington, the Reagan administration said it was surprised by the Soviet allegations of U.S. attempts to restrict Soviet participation.

State department spokesman John Hughes said Monday the United States had approved Aeroflot charter flights for Soviet athletes and officials and permission for them to stay in a Soviet ship in Los Angeles harbour.

The Soviet Olympic Committee statement accused President Reagan of using the Olympics for political ends and said Washington and the games organisers had directly breached several charter rules.

These violations, it said, included commercialisation of the games, refusal to issue visas to Moscow's Olympic diplomatic attaché and accreditation of journalists from U.S. radio stations beaming to Eastern Europe.

Dinamo have another mountain to climb

LONDON (R) — Romanian soccer champions Dinamo Bucharest must feel like a weary mountaineer who, thinking he is standing on the roof of the world, suddenly spots Everest through the swirling clouds.

Having already scaled the heights by conquering holders Hamburg and the excellent Soviet side Dynamo Minsk, the Romanians still face the toughest European Cup expedition of all against Liverpool at Anfield on Wednesday.

At a time when most clubs are showing the strain of a long, hard season, Liverpool have all the joyful enthusiasm of a new-born colt being turned out in the paddock for the first time.

The quality of their football against West Ham on Saturday was beautiful to behold and their 6-0 annihilation of a side which stood fourth in the English first division must have had a demoralising effect on Dinamo.

Nor will Liverpool's performance have gone unnoticed in Italy and Scotland and the winners of the other semifinal between Roma and Dundee United will be hoping Dinamo continue their unlikely run by reaching the final in the Olympic stadium, Rome, on May 30.

For a short spell this year, Liverpool, European Cup winners in 1977, 1978, and 1981, appeared to be in decline, losing to second division Brighton in the F.A. Cup, then briefly relinquishing the Lea-

gue leadership to Manchester United.

But they are now back at the top of the first division, the League Cup is sitting in the trophy cabinet after two epic battles with arch-rivals Everton, and a place has been reserved for the European silverware — although Roma would be a tough proposition in a final on Italian soil.

Liverpool's return to form coincided with Kenny Dalglish's reappearance last month after nine weeks on the sidelines with a fractured cheekbone. The 33-year-old Scot is as majestic as ever and apart from scoring the second goal against West Ham he had a hand in four of the other goals.

But even if Dinamo stifle Dalglish's genius, they will still have to contend with 'super-striker' Ian Rush, scorer of 38 goals this season and the deadliest marksman in Europe today.

Although their teamwork is excellent — and international midfielders Augustin and Mutescu are out of the very top drawer — Dinamo appear to be a class below Liverpool and it is hard to see the Romanians returning home anything less than two goals in arrears.

Dundee United have been foolishly written-off in some quarters,

but Roma should not be lulled into a false sense of security.

The Scots thrashed Belgian champions Standard Liege — before their team was wrecked by the recent bribes scandal — 4-0 in the second round and they will not allow the Romans the time and space to weave their pretty midfield patterns.

United, who exist on an average home gate of around 11,000, have increased ticket prices for the tie... but, just to disprove the myth that Scots are mean, they will allow their fans in free for Saturday's league game against St. Johnstone.

However, the chances of an all-British final look better in the Cupwinners' Cup which will be played in Basle on May 16.

Holders Aberdeen are probably the second best team in Britain behind Liverpool and already wear the mantle of European Super Cup Champions, having beaten Hamburg over two legs earlier this season.

The Scots travel to Portugal to face Porto and with World Cup star Gerd Gorfod Strachan showing sublime form at times, the holders should emerge victorious with something to spare over 180 minutes.

The other semifinal brings tog-

ether two of the most glamorous names in world football — Manchester United and Juventus.

Despite the presence of England captain Bryan Robson and Dutch maestro Arnold Muhren, United can look predictable and pedestrian at times. But they showed their true worth in the last round when they overcame a two-goal first-leg deficit against Diego Maradona's Barcelona with a thrilling 3-0 win at Old Trafford.

Juventus, who have a crucial league game with Roma looming, boast the most awesome line-up in football on paper. But as they showed in last season's Champions' Cup final against Hamburg in Athens, their temperament is brittle and much will depend on how they cope with the atmosphere at Old Trafford.

The luck of the draw also ensured the possibility of an all-British UEFA cup final between Tottenham and twice European Cup winners Nottingham Forest, but both must overcome quality opposition first.

Forst entertain Belgian holders Anderlecht, who rattled in seven goals in a league game at the weekend, while Tottenham travel to Yugoslavia to confront the ever-dangerous Hajduk Split.

Denmark's Olsen signs for United

AMSTERDAM (R) — Manchester United have completed the signing of Danish soccer international Jesper Olsen from Dutch side Ajax Amsterdam. It was announced Tuesday.

Adrie van Eijden, vice chairman of Ajax, said the clubs signed a contract at an Amsterdam hotel Monday night but refused to give any details of the deal for the 23-year-old winger.

However, Olsen is believed to have signed a three-year contract with the English first division side, who have paid Ajax £350,000 (\$500,500).

Olsen agreed last November to join United but Ajax said then they wanted a fee equivalent to one million dollars.

Van Eijden said Olsen was still recovering from an operation he underwent in Copenhagen last month on his left ankle. "He has resumed light training but still walks with a stick," he said.

The Dane's contract with Ajax expires on June 30, but van Eijden could not say whether the club would release him before that date. "It's still too early to say how long it will take before he is match fit again," he said.

He added that Olsen hoped he could play for Denmark in the European Championship finals in France in June.

Edberg ousted from Luxembourg's Grand Prix

LUXEMBOURG (R) — Talented young Swedish player Stefan Edberg, seeded sixth in Luxembourg's first tennis Grand Prix tournament, was beaten in the first round Monday by little-known West German Eric Jelen. Edberg has had an amazing few weeks, moving up from 83rd to 17th in the world rankings after wins over such players as South African Kevin Curren, and Sweden's Mats Wilander and Anders Jarryd.

The 19-year-old West German, who only qualified for the tournament on a wild card, won 6-4, 6-3 to notch the best victory of his short career.

There was another shock when Peter Fleming, better known as John McEnroe's doubles partner, went down to his fellow American Mike Bauer in two sets. It was the first time they had met and there is a difference of 41 places in the their rankings in Fleming's favour.

Veteran Australian player John Alexander put up a brave fight before going out to Switzerland's Heinz Gunthardt in three sets 7-5, 6-7, 7-5.

Unknown West German player Boris Becker, 16, earlier caused a stir when he beat Romanian Davis Cup player Florin Segarceanu.

IOC will consider any application from Budd

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is ready to consider the eligibility of former South African runner Zola Budd to compete in the British Olympic team, an IOC spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Budd, 17, is the world's fastest woman over 5,000 metres, but her time is not recognised by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) because she set it as a South African. The white-rumped republic is suspended from IAAF membership.

Last month, Budd arrived secretly in Britain and applied for British citizenship. The naturalisation, first step on the path to competing in Los Angeles this year, was granted last Friday.

South Africans are barred from the Olympics because of Pretoria's apartheid (racial separation) policies.

Under IOC rules, naturalised athletes must have held citizenship for at least three years before representing their new country in the Olympic Games.

The rule may be waived only with the agreement of the National Olympic Committee and International Federation concerned and the final approval of the IOC executive board.

But the IOC spokeswoman said Budd's case would be considered by the IOC's eligibility commission on its merits.

No application had yet been

received from the British Olympic Association. Any such request would first be passed for consideration to the IAAF, she said.

In London, Britain's top middle-distance runner Wendy Sly said she did not wish to run against Budd before the Olympic Games.

And she said she was prepared to boycott Britain's Olympic trials at Crystal Palace on June 6.

Sly, 23, said her fifth places in both the 1,500 and 3,000 metres at last year's World Athletics Championships should have been good enough to earn her pre-selection for the Los Angeles Games.

The DFB's committee for top-level sport agreed in principle to send 315 sportsmen and will add to this figure if the West German soccer, basketball or handball teams qualify for the Olympics.

The committee also recognised that mistakes were made in preparation for February's Winter Olympics in Sarajevo where West Germany won only four medals.

Games.

Sly's coach Neville Taylor said: "Wendy feels that our girls have made a breakthrough in middle-distance running in the last couple of years without any real help."

"It has been a struggle but now this young girl comes over and everyone seems to be bending over backwards to help her."

"We think she should spend some time in this country before qualifying. If you change clubs you have to wait for a year before you can run and it should be at least the same period when you change countries."

W.Germans announce Olympics team

FRANKFURT, West Germany (R) — The West German Sports Federation (DFB) Monday decided to send more than 300 athletes to the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

The DFB's committee for top-level sport agreed in principle to send 315 sportsmen and will add to this figure if the West German soccer, basketball or handball teams qualify for the Olympics.

The committee also recognised that mistakes were made in preparation for February's Winter Olympics in Sarajevo where West Germany won only four medals.

Particular criticism was aimed at the figure skating and nordic skiing teams. The highly rated skaters failed to win a single medal after Olympic preparations were marred by disputes between officials and top performers such as Norbert Schramm.

The West German Nordic Skiing Federation held their national championship just two weeks before Sarajevo, giving athletes little time to recover for the games.

The DFB said such mistakes should not be repeated during preparations for Los Angeles.

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(Colour)

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Cinema Tel: 23171

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THE EVIL
(Colour)
Italian

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema Tel: 30126

BASMAN

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MAHARAJA
(Colour)
"Indian film"

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema Tel: 22117

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HERO
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"Karaté"

THE MIGHTY
KADAR
"Indian film"

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema Tel: 22198

RAGHADAN

IN QUILAAB
(Colour)
"Indian film"

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

التي في ليل

Japan's trade surplus hits record \$23.33b

TOKYO (R) — Japan more than doubled its trade surplus with the rest of the world in the financial year which ended last month, the finance ministry said Tuesday.

Japanese cars, stereo equipment, video tape recorders and machine tools led a surge in exports which far outweighed imports to take the surplus to a record \$23.33 billion from the previous year's \$9.33 billion.

Japan is under pressure from its main trading partners, the United States and Europe, to do something quickly to water down its trade success.

They say the flood of Japanese goods onto their markets is damaging home industries, with aggressive Japanese competition sending companies out of business and causing unemployment.

Yet Japanese trade officials are forecasting an even higher surplus of about \$34 billion for the current financial year.

Mr. Tazuo Yokoyama, counselor to Japan's Trade Minister Hikosaburo Okonogi, told Reuters Japan was pinning its hopes

on solving the trade dispute on increasing consumer demand at home for foreign goods.

But he said this would not solve the problem this year.

Mr. Yokoyama said the main reason for last year's increased trade surplus was the improvement in the U.S. economy.

"That caused lots of import demand for Japanese goods, and the very high productivity of Japanese industry made Japan's products cheap and of good quality," he said.

The finance ministry figures show exports to the United States rose 30 per cent to \$46.73 billion, far outweighing an eight per cent rise in U.S. imports to \$25.69 billion.

There has been loud protest about Japan's success in the United States, with some groups calling for the imports to be halted at the dockside to protect home industries.

"These protectionist pressures in the United States will continue because it is an American election year," Mr. Yokoyama said.

Rise in U.S. interest rates angers Third World officials

WASHINGTON (R) — Representatives from developing countries have expressed anger at the rise in U.S. interest rates at a time when the Third World is fighting to repay massive debt, according to monetary sources.

The sources, attending the so-called Group of 24 developing country meetings held under the auspices of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, said Third World officials were dismayed at the increase in the U.S. prime rate and the Federal Reserve's discount rate.

"The recent U.S. increases means that in dollar terms our interest payments have become more difficult," said one developing country source.

Finance ministers and central bankers are gathering for a week of meetings which will culminate on Thursday with a policy-making session of the IMF's powerful Interim Committee.

It had been expected that the meetings would be relatively calm, but renewed fears of a global debt crisis re-emerged when Argentina came within hours of defaulting on interest payments to commercial banks.

The Argentina affair was followed this weekend by questions about the Peruvian debt situation which the IMF sought to defuse by issuing a statement that a proposed assistance package was still under active consideration.

The Third World officials, according to monetary sources, said

they would like to see a major increase in the IMF's hybrid currency, the Special Drawing Right, that could be added to their treasuries.

This is opposed by most industrial countries on the grounds it could re-ignite global inflation.

Meanwhile, leading American economic pundit Mr. Henry Kaufman Monday predicted a "dramatic rise in interest rates" in the U.S. later this year.

The chief economist of Salomon Brothers Inc. told a news conference "we should anticipate a prime interest rate of between 13 and 15 per cent by the end of 1984."

Mr. Kaufman also predicted that the U.S. economy would keep expanding in the next 12 months but said renewed inflationary pressures would be felt in the second half of this year with consumer prices rising at a seven per cent annual rate.

Mr. Kaufman also said difficulties would be compounded by a weakening in the dollar later this year.

"The fall in the value of the dollar will, with delay, increase the rate of inflation just at a time when domestic pressures on inflation will be intensifying," he said.

A weaker currency would make it impossible for the United States to attract foreign capital needed to finance government budget deficits and other credit demands, he said.

European Community crisis deepens as hopes fade for early British budget deal

LUXEMBOURG (R) — The European Community (EC) was told Tuesday that its financial crisis was deepening while hopes of recovery hung on deadlocked talks over British budget payments.

European Commission President Gaston Thorn told the group's foreign ministers in Luxembourg that he expected a budget shortfall of up to \$2.3 billion this year, about \$500 million above what he predicted about a month ago.

But diplomats said the ministers seemed far from agreement on how to resolve the British budget row which has held up accord on ways of ending the community's financial crisis.

The foreign ministers touched briefly on the British problem

Monday night when their president, French External Affairs Minister Claude Cheysson, asked for concessions from Britain and ended the discussions quickly when none were forthcoming.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher spoke of Britain's nine partners waiting for it to give in since its hard-line attitude led to the collapse of last month's crucial community summit.

But British officials insisted both sides needed to move to narrow a \$200 million gap between

the figure Britain wants to set as a reference point for future refunds and the \$850 million the others have so far been prepared to offer.

They also ruled out any possibility of British agreement on interim arrangements to supplement the community's budget this year and next ahead of a possible long-term financing deal.

"We have first to see where the community will be sailing from 1985 onwards," one British diplomat said.

No new date has been set for resuming discussion of the British budget problem although it could be taken up again at the next meeting of foreign ministers due in Brussels on May 14, diplomats said.

But with the approach of the June 14-17 European Parliament elections, concessions were unlikely from either side and a settlement now looked improbable before the next summit due to be held on June 25-26 near Paris.

Unfair trading

On Monday, meanwhile, the European Community's executive commission was given added powers to combat unfair trading

practices by third countries.

EC foreign ministers empowered the commission to start action against third countries with the world trade body GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) without first obtaining the agreement of community governments.

Officials said the measure was meant to speed action against countries exporting goods to the community at dumping prices and others which broke international and other commitments.

The powers would, for example, have enabled the commission to start proceedings at GATT within 30 days against the U.S. for its steel import restrictions last July, rather than wait months for approval by community states, officials said.

The ministers' action Monday also led to the unblocking of 15 measures to ease trade within the community through the adoption of common technical standards, officials said.

Ranging from common standards for forklift trucks and gas bottles to noise abatement, the measures had been blocked by countries led by France who demanded a tougher line against foreign competitors.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Renewed institutional buying boosted the market after a mixed start. Trading was moderate and some issues closed below best levels on light profit-taking, dealers said. At 1500 the F.T. 30 index was up 12 points to 879.2.

RTZ was up 20p at 714 ahead of results Wednesday, while Hawker firmed 12p to 422 after 426 and T.I. group was a net 8p higher at 264 after 268. ICI eased 2p to 586.

A larger than expected rise in U.K. money supply depressed conventional government bonds by as much as 3/8 point but index linked stocks firmed on renewed inflation fears, dealers said. Gold shares and North Americans were narrowly mixed.

Gains in life insurances ranged to 14p in Prudential at 480. Insurances were dull after a gloomy annual report from General Accident's chairman. General Accident fell 10p to 470. Banks eased but dealers said Lloyds rose 12p to 609 as it will be less adversely affected by tax changes related to leasing.

Oils were mainly steady but Lasso rose 12p to 318 after 323 on bid speculation, while Tricentrol added 5p to 208.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.4277/87	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2800/03	Canadian dollars
	2.6305/15	West German marks
	2.9660/70	Dutch guilders
	2.1803/13	Swiss francs
	53.72/75	Belgian francs
	8.0875/0925	French francs
	1627.25/1628.25	Italian lire
	225.65/75	Japanese yen
	7.8175/8225	Swedish crowns
	7.5750/5800	Norwegian crowns
	9.6675/6725	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	381.10/381.00	U.S. dollars

W. German union defers strike over working hours

FRANKFURT (R) — West Germany's largest trade union Tuesday pulled back from the brink of national strike action and agreed to hold more talks with employers on its demand for a 35-hour week.

After a long debate that began Monday, Mr. Hans Mayr, executive chairman of the IG Metall union, told reporters the union was ready to resume negotiations with employers as soon as possible, "perhaps this week."

Mr. Mayr said leaders of the union, representing 2.7 million workers in the metal, engineering and automobile sectors, had decided to make another attempt at a settlement without resorting to national strike ballots.

He said they would enter the new talks "without preconditions."

The union's decision followed indications late Monday that the employers were willing to discuss more flexible working hours, while still rejecting the principle of a 35-hour week.

The director of the Metal Industry Employers' Organisation

Mr. Dieter Kirchner said some concessions were possible if the union returned to the negotiating table.

IG Metall, which claims to be Europe's largest union, is leading the battle for a 35-hour week which it sees as the main weapon to combat unemployment, still standing at 2.4 million despite a West German economic recovery.

The standard working week is currently 40 hours, excluding meal breaks.

Opinion polls have suggested that in a ballot, the union would be unlikely to receive the support of at least 75 per cent of its members which is necessary to enforce a national strike.

The two unions representing some 325,000 bank employees Tuesday avoided confrontation over the shorter week by accepting a 3.4 per cent pay increase and an early retirement scheme.

The government has agreed to subsidise pensions for workers who retire from the age of 58, provided they are replaced by unemployed.

Sri Lankans end strike

COLOMBO (R) — A ten-day strike in Sri Lanka's tea and rubber plantations that nearly crippled the country's economy was called off Tuesday after the government agreed to pay an extra two rupees a day to plantation workers.

The interim measure was agreed at discussions between President Junius Jayewardene and union officials, a government communiqué said.

Union sources said over 600,000 workers were on strike but government officials claimed it was less. "Day after day workers have been returning to work," officials said.

The strike was called on April 1 by one of the Ceylon Workers' Congress (CWC) and the Joint Plantation Trade Union Committee (JPTUC) representing 12 small unions, to back demands for allowances given to workers in other sectors.

The decision to raise pay rates came after CWC President S. Thondaman and Gamini Dissanayake, president of a non-striking union, Lanka Jathika Estates Workers' union, had discussions with Mr. Jayewardene Monday.

A communiqué from the president's office said the question of wages in the plantation sector would be examined fully by a committee appointed by the president and including representatives of all major plantation unions.

Mr. Jayewardene said last week that the island was losing 60 million rupees (\$2.4 million) a day due to the strike.

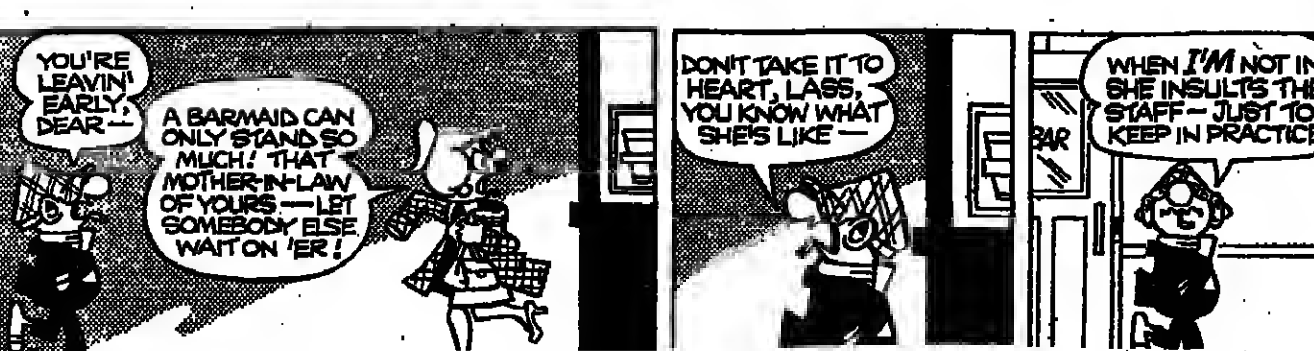
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Belgians strike again

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian industry, mail services and public transport were hit Tuesday by the second socialist-led strike in eight days against the government's austerity programme. A railway spokesman said services were likely to be disrupted throughout the day, with international trains running only from Paris and the Netherlands. Because of strikes at Charleroi, Liege, Namur and Antwerp, in Brussels, tram and bus services virtually halted and there were delays on the underground. Most buses and trams ran in Antwerp though pickets stopped some leaving their depots by slapping paint on windscreens or letting down tyres. In industry, the Cockrill-Sambre steel company's plants at Liege were at a standstill but some major firms reported a lower response by workers than last week. Radio stations reduced normal programmes and mail deliveries were patchy. The Socialist Trade Union Federation (FGTB) called the strike in protest at government plans to reduce Belgians' real wages by two per cent annually over the next three years.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when it is necessary to avoid arguments, for a considerable amount of trouble will follow confrontations that take place, especially between mental and mundane viewpoints.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) If you schedule your time well, you can handle both business and creative work ideally. Don't worry your mate about monetary matters.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Keep home ties and outside partners apart so that no arguments can arise. Take no risks while driving.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) It is best to get your work done first and later you can take care of outside interests. Avoid that tendency to drive too fast.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't get into expensive pleasures that you would later regret. Your mate and an expert could get into an argument.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Don't argue with close ties over some plans they do not like, but quietly go about your business and get right results.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A friend needs help but give it confidentially. Don't neglect communications that are vital to your welfare.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be loyal to generous pals and go along with them and forget practical affairs that are intricate for the time being.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your own ideas may be quite different from those of a higher-up, but don't argue; try to compromise. Improve relationships.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Stop fretting, and get into new interests at which you can be most efficient and gain added income.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Your mate could have an argument with an outsider, but don't mix in and it will soon be over.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) An associate could be of more help to you now than a higher-up, so gain support from him or her.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) There are new interests coming into your life that should at least be studied. Listen to what a high class new contact has to suggest.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who will have much inner conflict and will ricochet from being very extroverted at one time, and most introverted at another. Religious training could be helpful. Be very careful in disciplining, and be gentle.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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THE Daily Crossword by John Greenman

ACROSS

- 1 Fishhook
- 5 Bouquet
- 10 Whack
- 14 Tars' tam
- 15 July TV
- 16 Lobs of moss
- 17 Maria von
- 20 Famed ship
- 21 Standards
- 22 Billy
- 23 Perched
- 25 Cat type
- 27 Norma

DOWN

- 2 Macaw
- 3 Kind of rug
- 34 Giva— (care)
- 36 Balle
- 40 Silverman
- 41 Pola of old Hollywood
- 43 Oat
- 44 Titt
- 46 — Scott
- 47 Seina
- 48 Neon is
- 50 Eunica
- 52 Strips

19 Daspora

24 Author

26 Author

27 Sidakicks

28 Clapton

29 Equiptment

30 Auto shed

31 Tidal

35 Thwarted

37 Boistroua

38 Come-on

39 Machina

42 Data in

45 Linguine

49 Boutiquas

51 Org.

52 Owed item

53 Senseless

54 Brink

55 Copy Zayak

59 Princely

61 It, family

62 Asida

64 Beer produced at one brewing

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66 Baahive

68 Gazzara or

69 Vereen

70 Undemanding

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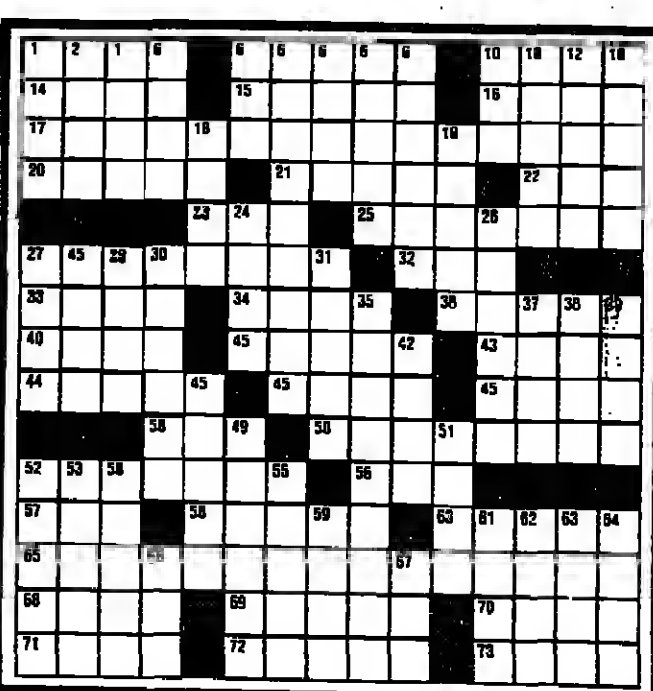
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TEFAC

FEACH

RUSTEM

LEEXAH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: KNIFE SWISH GUITAR FORCED
Answer: What ice on the road is—SKID STUFF

Gandhi returns to new violence in Punjab

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi returned from a brief overseas trip Tuesday to more Punjab violence which she described as terrorism new to India.

Several hours before Mrs. Gandhi arrived home from visits to Libya and Tunisia, Sikh extremists shot dead a village vigilante near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

After three people died and two were wounded in extremist attacks Monday on Hindu religious celebrations Tuesday marking the birthday of Lord Rama, one of the religion's main Gods.

Gandhi told reporters at New Delhi Airport the government was making every effort to end Punjab violence. At least 130 people have died since the start of the year in a Sikh campaign for religious and political concessions.

"There have been acts of terrorism all over the world but it is new to India," Mrs. Gandhi said.

However she said the extremist attacks were counter-productive because people realised they were not in the public interest.

Mrs. Gandhi said she was not frightened by reports that as part of their campaign extremists planned to kill her and her 34-year-old son Rajiv.

"I have lived with danger ever since I was born," she said.

Security sources said this morning's killing by three extremists of a village self-defence guard could be the start of stepped-up attacks over the next three days.

The gunmen shot down the former soldier, a member of vigilante squads formed with the government's approval to guard against extremists, in the village of

Nainde, 25 kilometres from Amritsar.

Sikh political leaders have called protests throughout Punjab Wednesday to protest at deployment of paramilitary forces in the state.

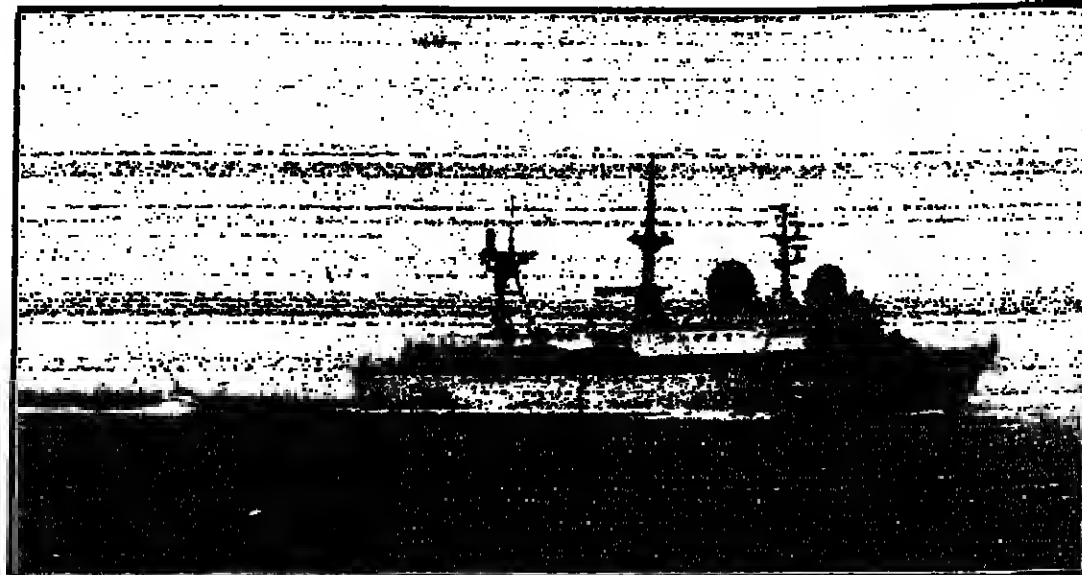
Thousands of paramilitary troops moved into Punjab when Mrs. Gandhi took direct control of the state by imposing presidential rule last October after eight Hindu bus passengers were gunned down.

Sikh leaders say security forces killed eight Sikh during riots in Amritsar last week.

On Friday Sikhs and Hindus celebrate the New Year. The date is also the start of the wheat harvest in Punjab, India's main grain growing region.

Punjab's Director of Agriculture Sukhjit Singh Sandhu told Reuters thousands of farm labourers from other states who flock to Punjab at this time of year were not arriving because of extremist violence.

Sandhu estimated about 20 per cent of the 200,000-man immigrant labour force were absent despite visits to neighbouring states by Punjabi farmers offering double the normal wage.



CAT AND MOUSE: United States Coast Guard boat is barely visible as it comes in for a closer look at a Soviet Balzan-class intelligence ship as they cruise off Cocoa Beach, Florida, near the Kennedy Space Centre, last weekend. The giant intelligence ship was left to its own course, about 20 kilometres offshore, shortly thereafter (AP wirephoto)

Soviet warships hold exercises in Caribbean

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group of three Soviet warships conducted weekend exercises in the Gulf of Mexico about 209 kilometres south of New Orleans, U.S. Defence Department officials said Monday.

The three ships, including the 17,000-ton (15,000 metric ton) helicopter carrier Leningrad, were accompanied by a Cuban Konni-class frigate, said senior defence officials who declined to be identified.

A U.S. frigate, the Flatley, shadowed the Soviet ships during the exercises Saturday, the officials said.

Last year Soviet ships on a similar exercise approached to within 72 to 80 kilometres of the U.S. coast.

The other two Soviet ships in the latest exercises were the 8,000-ton (7,200 metric ton) destroyer Udaloy and an oiler, the officials said. Late Sunday, the Soviet ships turned south and are

now steaming off Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, the officials said.

The Leningrad, which normally carries 18 helicopters, arrived in the Caribbean Sea March 21, the officials said. It is the largest Soviet warship ever to operate in the Caribbean.

The Leningrad, exercises are apparently unrelated to the large-scale Soviet naval exercises last week in the northern Atlantic Ocean, the officials said.

Salvadorean guerrillas attack town

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Guerrillas bombed and stormed a town in eastern El Salvador Monday before being driven out by troop reinforcements backed by aircraft in a seven-hour battle, officials said.

The guerrillas briefly occupied the town of San Sebastian after laying down a barrage of mortar and rocket-grenade fire from the surrounding hills.

Military spokesmen said three civilians and three soldiers were killed in the attack and 19 wounded. One guerrilla was reported killed.

The assault on the town, in eastern San Vicente province, 40 kilometres from the capital, went on through the night before the rebels pulled out at about 7 a.m.

Colonel Roberto Rodriguez Murcia, the provincial army commander, denounced the attack as the "barbaric action of crazy killers". Residents said some homes were plundered by guerrillas. At least six houses were destroyed in the fighting.

Col. Rodriguez Murcia said troops rushed in from other garrisons drove the guerrillas from the town while fighter-bombers strafed rebel positions.



Mickey Mouse speaks Latin

VATICAN CITY (R) — Mickey Mouse has begun speaking textbook Latin as part of a campaign to keep the ancient language alive. Mickey Mouse (Michael Musculus in Latin) featured in an article in the Vatican newspaper Osservatore Romano announcing the publication of a comic book in Latin on his exploits, translated by Vatican scholar Carlo Egger. The article said Mickey Mouse and his cartoon friends helped provide a direct stimulus to students of the ancient language, "proving that Latin is and can be a living language today". Donald Duck (Donaldus Anas) already has his own Latin comic, also translated by Father Egger, as part of a campaign by the European Language Institute to keep Latin alive.

Man ordered to pay gang rape victims

ROME (R) — A man who took part in a gang rape of two women was Monday barred for life from public employment, ordered to compensate each victim, and given a five-year and four-month prison sentence, Rome criminal tribunal convicted Carlo Prospero of continued and aggravated carnal violence and ordered him to pay 15 million lire (\$9,260) to each victim. Prospero joined eight companions in the gang rape of two West German women in a hut near Tivoli last May. The other defendants were sentenced to between two to five years jail on the same count in February when Prospero was in hospital.

Moscow highway named after Andropov

MOSCOW (R) — A major Moscow highway was renamed "Prospect Yuri Andropov" Monday in honour of the late Soviet Communist Party chief, who died in February. The Official News Agency TASS said a plaque commemorating Andropov was unveiled at the head of what was previously called Proletarski Prospekt, a road leading eastwards from the city centre's garden ring. The northern Russian city of Rybinsk was also renamed in honour of Andropov, who died of kidney failure aged 69.

Couple discover Ming vase at home

GLASGOW, Scotland (R) — A Scottish couple have been told that their table lamp is a 600-year-old Ming vase with an estimated value of £250,000 (\$350,000). The unnamed couple found out what was perched on their living room table only when they saw the vase's twin at an art exhibition. Christie's Auction House said Monday. The "lantern", which passed to them last year on the death of an uncle who had bought it for £40 (\$55), is to be auctioned this week.

San Francisco bans sex in homosexual clubs

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — San Francisco in a bid to curb the spread of the mysterious disease AIDS has announced a ban on sexual activity in bathhouses and sex clubs used by homosexuals. The decision was made public at a news conference by city Public Health Director Myron Silverman Monday. Many officials, including Mayor Dianne Feinstein, have called for the establishments to be closed on health grounds. AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is an incurable infection which mainly affects homosexuals and is believed to be transmitted through intimate sexual contact.

Shuttle may carry Chinese astronaut

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Chinese astronaut will be in the crew of a U.S. space shuttle flight under technological agreements that President Ronald Reagan will announce during his visit to China, according to a published report. The April 9 issue of Aviation Week and Space Technology reported that the Chinese astronaut would serve as a payload specialist and conduct Chinese space flight experiments or the launch of a Chinese spacecraft payload.

Firing continues to Yaounde as communications restored

YAOUNDE (R) — Gunfire was heard in the Cameroun capital again Monday night as the armed forces continued to search for rebels who attempted to overthrow President Paul Biya last Friday.

No official casualty figures have been given but I counted the bodies of 20 Republican Guards was counted at Yaounde's Central Hospital Monday and reliable sources said many civilians were killed in cross-fire between the rebels and loyalist forces.

Many buildings in the capital were burnt down during the fighting and eyewitnesses said a lot of bodies had been pulled from the

burning rubble and taken to Yaounde's main mortuary Monday. Scores of wounded are still being treated in various hospitals in the capital.

The attempted coup, the first in Cameroun's two decades of independence, was launched by dissident members of the Republican Guard, most of whom were captured after the attempt was crushed by loyal forces on Saturday.

Yaounde Radio Monday named the coup leader as Colonel Ibrahim Saleh of the Paramilitary Guard and said he had been caught.

U.S. aircraft carriers' battle power overstated report says

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Navy's Tactical Air (Tacair) Forces, made up of aircraft carriers and their planes, are not in such good fighting trim as claimed, according to a congressional report made public Monday.

The report compiled by the House of Representatives Sub-

committee on Legislation and National Security, said inaccurate navy data and shortages of essential items had given an erroneous picture.

It expressed fears that the Reagan administration's pursuit of a 600-ship navy as part of its defence build-up may affect the efficiency of the existing fleet.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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A DEFENDER WITH AN EASY TOUCH

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ K 10 8 4 3
♥ 7 8
♦ J 9 6 2
♣ A 9 3

WEST EAST
♠ J 9 7 6 ♠ Q 5 2
♥ Q 7 2 ♥ A K 9 6 3
♦ K 8 4 ♦ 5 3
♣ 8 6 2 ♣ 10 7 4

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ A Q 10 5 4
♦ A Q 10 7
♣ K Q J 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Two of ♣.

The Bridge Centre in Johannesburg is the local equivalent of New York's Cavendish Club. Of an afternoon, you will find most of the area's good players there for rubber bridge, including many who have represented their country in world competition.

This hand cropped up in a rubber bridge game at the Centre. The situation is not uncommon, but is often misplayed.

North-South conducted a reasonable auction to three

no trump. For want of anything better, West decided to lead the unbid suit, and struck gold with his partner. Unfortunately, East's thoughtless play proved fatal to the defense.

He won the king and ace of hearts and continued with a third heart to his partner's queen. West shifted to a spade, but declarer was in charge. Although the diamond finesse lost, he still had time to make nine tricks.

Had East taken some time before playing to the first trick, the contract would have been defeated. South surely has a heart stopper for his bid of three no trump. Therefore, West's lead is either from three to the queen or four to the jack. In either case, declarer has a sure heart trick. To maintain communications between his hand and his partner, East should simply play the nine of hearts at trick one!

Declarer wins, but he cannot take more than eight tricks without the diamond finesse. When West wins the king of diamonds, he returns the queen of hearts and another, and the defenders collect four heart tricks for down one.

Thatcher denies cover-up over son's business deals

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher denied Monday night she was covering up a scandal over her son's business deals.

But she refused in a television interview to answer specific questions about the activities of her son Mark, 30, and her role in them and said some details would stay secret for 30 years.

She said of her critics: "They haven't been able to say that a single thing which I did was wrong, not a single thing."

A controversy over her son has simmered since January when it was disclosed that Mark Thatcher was in Oman lobbying for a British firm to get a construction contract at the same time as his mother was there on an official visit.

The British firm, Cementation, later won the £300 million (\$450 million) contract to build the Gulf state's university but Mrs. Thatcher has insisted in parliament that she did not lobby for the firm,

only for British firms in general.

She was asked Monday night to give an assurance that if all the facts about the affair were disclosed there would be no evidence of any impropriety by her.

"I believe that is correct," Mrs. Thatcher replied.

"Then why not publish all the facts?" asked interviewer Sir Robin Day.

She said some records were covered by a rule under which government papers may not be released for 30 years.

She asked: "Are you really suggesting that I should have confidential discussions with other heads of government, that I should (then) break confidentially on commercial contracts?"

She refused to say whether she knew of her son's financial interest in the deal when she met him in Oman.

She also refused to say whether her advisers had warned her of the danger of a possible conflict of interest.



Margaret Thatcher

Opposition Labour Party leaders have been joined by some of Mrs. Thatcher's own Conservatives, including former Prime Minister Edward Heath, in calling on her to make a full statement.

She is reported to be incensed by the continuing furor over her son, which he has called a vendetta against her.

Mrs. Thatcher said Monday night she hoped to lead the Conservatives at the next general elections, to be held by 1988.

'Pizza Connection' heroin ring smashed

NEW YORK (R) — Hundreds of federal agents have smashed the "Pizza Connection" — a major U.S. heroin ring run by mafia chieftains that used pizza parlours across New York and the middle west as drug smuggling fronts.

The arrests of people involved in the ring that smuggled heroin worth \$1.6 billion into the United States over the past five years, were announced Monday by Attorney General William French Smith and FBI chief William Webster.

Among those arrested was Italy's most-wanted criminal, mafia leader Gaetano Badalamenti, described by U.S. officials as one of the world's biggest heroin exporters.

Badalamenti, 51, was seized on Sunday in Madrid as he met his nephew Pietro Alfano, a pizza par-

lour owner from the small town of Oregon, Illinois.

Alfano, who was also arrested, was one of five midwest pizza parlour owners and Badalamenti relatives who collected heroin from him, then passed it to a New York underworld organisation headed by 43-year-old Salvatore Calabrese, officials said.

Catalano, who used a bakery and a pizza parlour as fronts for his activities, headed the "Catalano Faction" of the Bonanno crime family, one of five major mafia gangs in New York City.

According to indictments released Monday, Catalano also masterminded a money-laundering scheme which saw millions of dollars from heroin sales invested in stocks through such New York brokerage houses as E.F. Hutton and Merrill Lynch

and in commodity futures in Switzerland.

Officials said the banks and brokerage houses did not know of the ring's activities. They said the governments of Switzerland, Spain, France, West Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and Canada co-operated fully in the investigation.

"This is the most significant case involving heroin trafficking by traditional organised crime that has ever been developed by the federal government," Attorney General Smith told a press conference.

Catalano was remanded in custody in lieu of \$5 million dollars bail. One of his lieutenants, Giuseppe Ganci, the owner of a chain of pizza restaurants, was ordered held in lieu of \$7.5 million bail.

Terms Of Endearment wins 5 major Hollywood Oscars

LOS ANGELES (R) — The U.S. box office hit Terms of Endearment won five major Hollywood Oscars Monday night, with a tearful Shirley MacLaine collecting her first academy award after waiting for 26 years.

"I deserved this — thank you," declared MacLaine, who was voted best actress for her role as a blonde, spirited widow locked in a 30-year, bitter-sweet relationship with her daughter in the film.

Its director, Jams L. Brooks, won three Oscars — as producer, for best picture of the year, for best director and for adapting the material into a screenplay.

Jack Nicholson was voted best supporting actor for his portrayal of a hard-drinking ex-astronaut who has an affair with MacLaine.

The jubilant Nicholson, who had won an Oscar for best actor in 1975 for his role in One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, kept in character by telling reporters: "I'm going to go out, see my friends and get loaded (drunk)."

MacLaine, who will be 50 on April 24, received the first of her five nominations for best actress in 1958, for Some Came Running.

She told the star-struck audience: "I have wondered for 26 years what this would feel like.

Thank you for terminating this suspense."

She admitted later: "I was weak in the knees."

Robert Duvall won the Oscar for best actor for playing a drunken country and Western singer who meets a young widow and gets his life back together in Tender Mercies. He fought off an all-British challenge in this category — Michael Caine, in Educating Rita, Tim Conti, in Reuben, Reuben, and Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay, in the Dresser.

It was fourth time lucky for the balding, 53-year-old Duvall, who had been nominated for his roles in the Great Santini, the Godfather and Apocalypse Now.

"I am very excited, very happy to be singled out," he said.

Oscar history was made when the four-foot, nine-inch (1.4 metre) Linda Hunt won the Oscar for best supporting actress — for portraying a man.

Film fans said it was the first time an actress had won for portraying the opposite sex. "In the future I would play anything truly interesting — and a woman," Hunt said.

Four thousand members of the film industry, who are members of the Academy of the Motion Pic-

ture Arts and Sciences, voted for the awards.

An academy spokesman estimated the show, which ran for three and three-quarter hours, had a television and radio audience of 500 million people in 76 countries.

The Swedish film Fanny And Alexander, which director Ingmar Bergman has said could be his last, won four Oscars.

They included best foreign-language film and best cinematography. Bergman's wife, Ingrid, told the audience she would telephone the news to her husband, who was directing a play in Sweden.

But she later told reporters: "I cannot telephone him because he has pulled out the plug. He will probably hear the news on the radio tomorrow."

The film "The Right Stuff," which took an irreverent look at the first seven U.S. astronauts, began the evening in fast style, winning three of the first six golden statues.

But they were minor awards, and the film, which cost \$28 million to make and has still to cover its costs, finally finished with four Oscars, including one for best original score, by Bill Conti.



Jack Nicholson

Asked about the early rush of awards to the Right Stuff, a relieved Brooks said: "I thought we were being set up for a big fall. Now I'm shaking and trembling."

"It was such a big struggle to get 'Terms of Endearment' made, the financing and studios kept turning it down," he said.

Barbara Streisand's film Yentl, of which she was producer, director and star, won just one award, for best original song score, by Michel Legrand and Alan and Marilyn Bergman.

Streisand was missing from the audience. But Marilyn Bergman declared: "I want to send a special



Shirley MacLaine

thanks to Barbara Streisand, wherever you are."

Gene Kelly barely held back his tears when he was given a replacement for the Oscar he lost when his home in Beverly Hills was burned down last December.

Kelly had received his Oscar in 1951 for his contribution to the art of choreography.

Hal Roach, the creator of the old Our Gang films and the producer of Laurel and Hardy and Harold Lloyd comedies, was given a standing ovation when, at the age of 92, he came on stage to receive a special Oscar.

Louis Feraud

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Louis Feraud

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